



Customer No. 26874  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Atty. Docket: END5130.0517372

IFW

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Swayze, et al. : Paper No:  
Serial No. 10/673,930 : Group Art Unit: 3731  
Filed: September 29, 2003 : Examiner: Gloria R. Weeks  
For: SURGICAL STAPLING INSTRUMENT INCORPORATING A FIRING  
MECHANISM HAVING A LINKED RACK TRANSMISSION

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action, dated October 1, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 7 of this paper.